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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/075,144	02/14/2002	Doreen S. Rao	BSC-201 (1002/276)	6889

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EXAMINER

WEBB, SARAH K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/075,144

Applicant(s)

RAO ET AL.

Examiner

Sarah K. Webb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-20, 22-34, 36-42 and 44-48 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4, 5, 7, 10-12, 15, 18-20 and 23-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 22, 28-34, 36-42 and 44-48 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-3,6,8,9,14,22,28-30,32-34,36-42,44, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Des. 335,106 to Teeter.

Teeter clearly illustrates a device that has an elongate body formed of discrete circular interconnected loops and two end pieces. One of the end pieces is spherical and both end pieces have a diameter larger than the diameter of the loops. There is a non-loop segment connected to several of the loops. The device is capable of being inserted into a body canal. Depending on the body canal into which the device inserted, the diameter of the end pieces may be larger than that of the canal so that the device is retained in a certain location.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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2. Claims 1-3,6,8,9,14,16,17,22,30-34,36-42, and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,458,119 to Berenstein et al.

Berenstein discloses a device for treating a blood vessel, which is a "body canal." The elongated body has alternating sections that have different configurations. As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the body has coiled sections (302 or 402) alternating with braided sections (304 or 404). The device includes both proximal and distal "end-pieces" (306) (see column 5, line 62- column 6, line 4). Figures 6A-C illustrate an alternate form of a flexible elongate body that is in the form of interconnected loops, or a chain. Berenstein teaches that the chain has a similar diameter to the coil and all of the configurations are extremely soft and flexible (column 7, lines 23-25 and 37-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the coil sections of the embodiment in Figure 3 with chain segments, as Berenstein teaches that all of the segment configurations are highly flexible and perform similar functions. This modification would result in a device with at least one non-loop segment (braided segments) connected to interconnected loops.

The loops are considered to have a circular shape, are closed and discrete, and have a circular cross-section. The end pieces are considered to meet the limitation "substantially spherical", as they have a rounded shape. Berenstein also states that the end pieces can be joined to the body by fusing or epoxy (column 4, lines 29-35). The non-loops segments are "compressible", as they can be formed of polymeric materials (column 5, lines 10-17 and 45-55). Berenstein also teaches here that segments of the device can be formed of degradable materials, such as cotton and silk.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection under Veatch have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

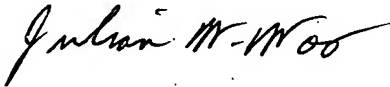
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah K. Webb whose telephone number is (571) 272-4706. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anh Tuan T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SKW
8/1/05



JULIAN W. WOO
PRIMARY EXAMINER